

larly, systems are also described herein that may include a processor and a memory coupled to the processor. The memory may include one or more programs that cause the processor to perform one or more of the operations described herein.

[0048] If desired, the different functions discussed herein may be performed in a different order and/or concurrently with each other. Furthermore, if desired, one or more of the above-described functions may be optional or may be combined.

[0049] Although various aspects of the invention are set out in the independent claims, other aspects of the invention comprise other combinations of features from the described embodiments and/or the dependent claims with the features of the independent claims, and not solely the combinations explicitly set out in the claims.

[0050] It is also noted herein that while the above describes example embodiments of the invention, these descriptions should not be viewed in a limiting sense. Rather, there are several variations and modifications which may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims. Other embodiments may be within the scope of the following claims. The term “based on” includes “based at least in part on”.

1-26. (canceled)

27. A method, comprising:

receiving, by a user equipment, configuration information including a timer value associated with user data inactivity;

starting or restarting a timer when user data is active in at least one cell of a secondary cell group but not active in a cell of a master cell group; and

releasing dual connectivity if the timer expires.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the master cell group comprises a group of serving cells associated with a master base station.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the secondary cell group comprises a group of serving cells associated with a secondary base station.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein releasing dual connectivity comprises releasing connections to cells of the secondary cell group.

31. The method of claim 27, further comprising: stopping sending at least one of buffer status report and power headroom report to cells of the secondary cell group.

32. The method of claim 27, wherein the configuration information is carried on a radio resource control message.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the radio resource control message comprises RRCConnectionReconfiguration message for adding or configuring a cell of the secondary cell group.

34. The method of claim 27, wherein the timer value is specific for a cell of the secondary cell group or common for cells of the secondary cell group.

35. An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to at least:

receive configuration information including a timer value associated with user data inactivity;

start or restart a timer when user data is active in at least one cell of a secondary cell group but not active in a cell of a master cell group; and

release dual connectivity if the timer expires.

36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the master cell group comprises a group of serving cells associated with a master base station.

37. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the secondary cell group comprises a group of serving cells associated with a secondary base station.

38. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein releasing dual connectivity comprises releasing connections to cells of the secondary cell group.

39. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein releasing dual connectivity comprises releasing dual connectivity when there is bearer split between a master base station and a secondary base station.

40. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the apparatus is further caused to: stop sending at least one of buffer status report and power headroom report to cells of the secondary cell group.

41. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the configuration information is carried on a radio resource control message.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the radio resource control message comprises RRCConnectionReconfiguration message for adding or configuring a cell of the secondary cell group.

43. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the timer value is specific for a cell of the secondary cell group or common for cells of the secondary cell group.

44. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the apparatus is further caused to: send information on the releasing to a master base station.

45. An apparatus, comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to at least:

transmit configuration information including a timer value associated with user data inactivity, wherein the timer value is associated with release of dual connectivity if a timer which counts time of user data inactivity expires.

46. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the apparatus is further caused to: receive information on releasing dual connectivity from a user equipment.

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